

Connecticut State Department of Education
SCHOOL NUTRITION RATING SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM

[Section 238 of June 12 Special Session Public Act 12-1](#) authorized the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to provide funds for the School Nutrition Rating System Pilot Program. The purpose of the School Nutrition Rating System Pilot Program was to provide competitive grants to local or regional boards of education to adopt and implement a nutrition rating system that

- provides information on the nutritional value of food provided to students in the school cafeteria to guide student food choices at school; and
- assists local and regional boards of education in food service decisions relating to the procurement of foods for schools.

The CSDE issued a request for proposals for the School Nutrition Rating System Pilot Program grant on August 29, 2012, and again on October 15, 2012. From the submitted applications, three districts were chosen to receive the School Nutrition Rating System Pilot Program grants. The grantees each received a \$50,000 grant award to implement their proposal. The grant period included school years 2012-13 and 2013-14.

PILOT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

As part of the grant criteria, eligible applicants could submit an application for their own local or regional board of education or as part of a group of boards of education as long as the board of education had at least one elementary school, one middle school and one high school located in the school district or districts. Applicants were also required to meet the following criteria:

- The district participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- The district participates in Healthy Food Certification (HFC) under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) for both school years of the pilot (2012-13 and 2013-14).
- The district had submitted or would submit to the CSDE by November 1, 2012, a HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) application for each school that would be part of the School Nutrition Rating System Pilot Program. This criterion was included in the Request for Proposals issued on August 29, 2012, but was removed from the criteria in the Request for Proposals issued on October 15, 2013, to increase applications from interested school districts that had not yet applied for the HUSSC.

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PILOT SCHOOLS

Mansfield Public Schools: Utilizing the NuVal Nutrition Rating System* and partnering with the University of Connecticut and the Living Well, Eating Smart Wellness Team for Big Y, Mansfield's proposal centered around "educating students, parents, teachers and food service staff on the importance of balanced eating and how to interpret the NuVal Nutrition Rating System to guide them toward the selection of higher nutritional meals."

Ansonia Public Schools: Utilizing the NuVal Nutrition Rating System* and partnering with The Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center, Valley Initiative to Advance Health and Learning in Schools and Big Y World Class Market, Ansonia's proposal centered on increasing student, parent and staff's "knowledge of foods level of nutrition via the implementation of the NuVal Nutrition Rating System." For a sample middle school menu, see Ansonia's weekly [school lunch menus](#).

Meriden Public Schools: Utilizing the Stoplight Nutrition Rating System* and partnering with the Meriden YMCA, Meriden Boys and Girls Club, Beat the Street Community Center, Girls Incorporated, My City Kitchen and Meriden's Children's First Initiative, Meriden's proposal centered on implementing a "nutrition rating system that students can easily identify and interpret" that will guide their food selection and purchases. For a sample elementary menu, see Meriden's [May 2014 menu](#).

** The above listed rating systems and menus are provided for informational purposes only. They do not constitute endorsement or approval by the CSDE. The CSDE bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of this information.*

CONTACT

For more information on the School Nutrition Rating System Pilot Program, please contact:



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